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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

South Vietnam: Situation report. (Page 1)

South Korea - Vietnam: Seoul intends to maintain good relations with the US despite misgivings over Vietnam. (Page 2)

25X1

Nationalist China - USSR: Taiwan is more flexible in its attitude toward Moscow. (Page 4)

World Communist Conference: Communist parties will meet this month to try to set a new date for the international conference. (Page 6)

Israel - Arab States: The Israelis may become less restrained in retaliating for border incidents. (Page 7)

25X1

Guyana: A strike by sugar workers is potentially explosive. (Page 9)

25X1

Lebanon: Demonstrations (Page 10)

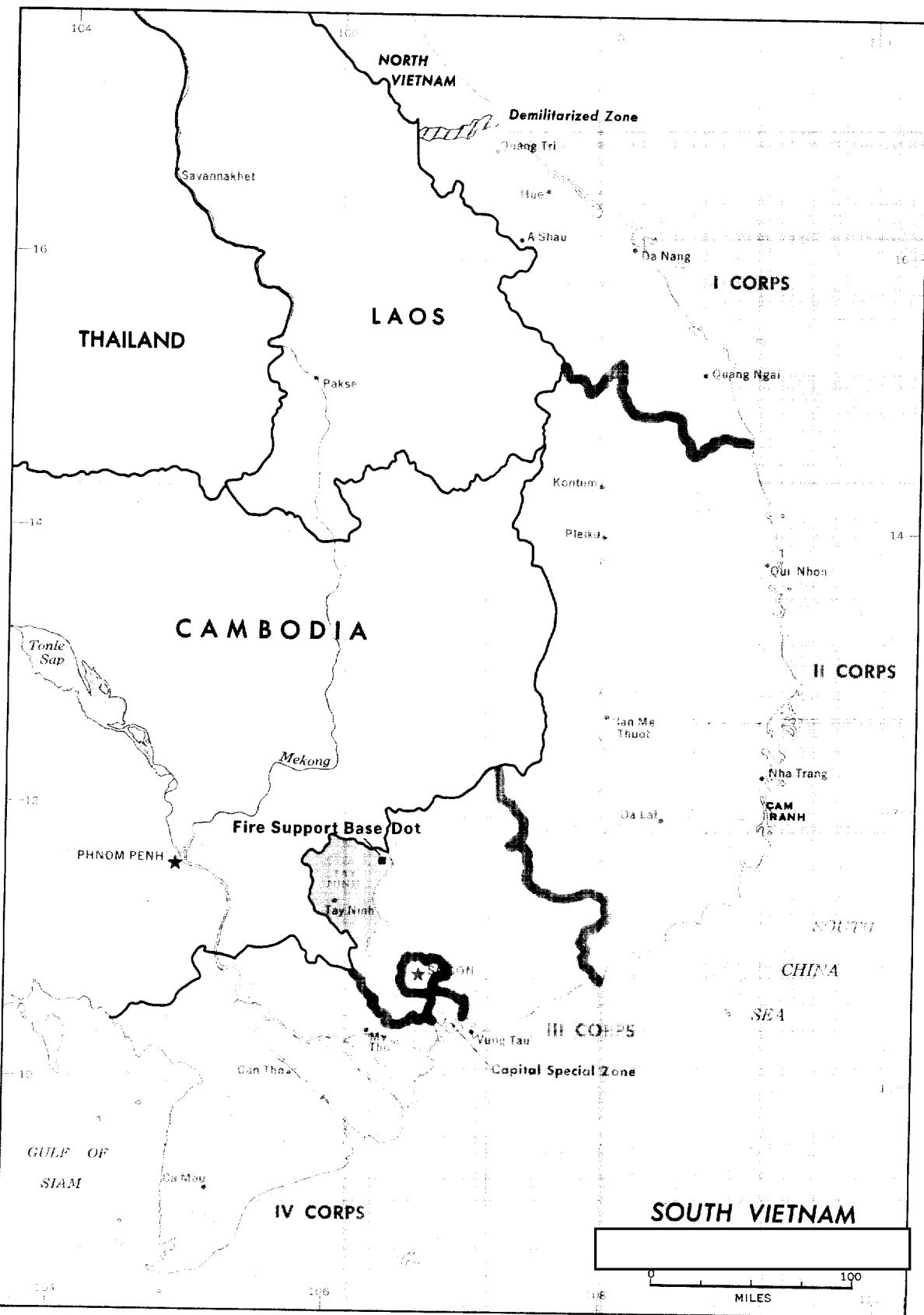
Italy: Student unrest (Page 10)

East Germany - Yugoslavia: Worsening relations (Page 11)

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Approved For Release 2003/10/01 : CIA-RDP79T00975A012500100001-1



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[South Vietnam: Ground action picked up in South Vietnam on 13-14 November.

The Communists attacked allied units in four separate engagements in northeastern Tay Ninh Province. The largest engagement was a Communist multi-battalion attack on a remote artillery base, Fire Support Base Dot. The enemy directed intensive mortar fire at the base before launching an unsuccessful seven-hour ground attack. The Communists lost at least 300 men in the engagement and continued mortar and rocket fire at the base even after withdrawing. This was the first attack of this size in a month and a half.

Three other smaller encounters between Communist forces and US patrols occurred in the same general area. Allied losses in all these engagements were light. Northern Tay Ninh Province has a large concentration of Communist units which have been out of action for several months. The new outbreak could signal the beginning of a period of renewed enemy aggressiveness in northwestern III Corps.

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South Korea - Vietnam: Seoul is making it increasingly clear that any differences with the US over Vietnam will not be allowed to jeopardize good relations.

The prime minister and foreign minister recently responded to National Assembly criticism of US decisions with respect to Vietnam by stressing the high degree of unity among all the Vietnam allies and the importance of South Korea's role there. President Pak Chong-hui has taken a similar line, emphasizing the prospects for South Korea's future participation in the rehabilitation of Vietnam.

The South Korean leaders' expression of confidence in US policy on Vietnam reflects their awareness of South Korea's heavy dependence on US military and economic assistance, particularly in the face of increased North Korean infiltration.

This desire to avoid open differences with the US, however, has not eased the misgivings of South Korean leaders about any settlement in Vietnam short of military victory. Basically, they continue to oppose negotiations with the Communists and to be concerned that a lessening of the conflict in Southeast Asia may bring increased Communist pressure on South Korea. [redacted]

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Nationalist China - USSR: Taiwan apparently has adopted a less hostile attitude toward the Soviet Union.

The Chinese Nationalist Government Information Office sponsored a visit last month to Taiwan by Victor Louis, a Soviet national who probably is connected with Soviet intelligence and over the years has been used by Moscow to carry out a variety of semiofficial tasks. The visit presumably was approved by President Chiang Kai-shek and also by the Soviet Government. Louis, the first Soviet visitor to the Republic of China in 19 years, met with the information director and was given a guided tour of the island.

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This softened attitude toward the USSR indicates that the Chinese Nationalists have a better understanding of the realities of the Sino-Soviet split. In the past, President Chiang has viewed it more as a personality conflict between Mao and the post-Stalin Soviet leadership than as a clash over ideological and national interests.

Soviet officials have been attempting to sound out Chinese Nationalist diplomats on mainland Chinese

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affairs for some time. Louis' visit, in the wake of China's vociferous opposition to the invasion of Czechoslovakia, was probably meant to demonstrate that Moscow can also meddle in areas very touchy to Peking's sensibilities. [redacted]

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World Communist Conference: Many of the world's Communist parties will meet in Budapest on 17 November to try to set a date for the international conference.

Last spring, a preparatory meeting fixed 25 November as the date for the world conference, but that date was dropped as a result of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. Six weeks of intensive Soviet lobbying followed, and the Soviets will probably now try to pin down a new date for a world meeting. In his speech at the Polish party congress this week, Soviet First Secretary Brezhnev argued strongly for such a meeting, but did not commit his prestige to any specific date.

The French Communist Party, which had been recalcitrant since the invasion, apparently gave in to especially severe arm twisting during talks in Moscow on 4-5 November. The French were reportedly exposed to bitter harangues by Brezhnev, who threatened to force a formal split in the French party if it did not follow Moscow's lead on rescheduling the conference. Talks between Soviet leaders and an Italian party delegation now in Moscow probably will be equally stormy, although the Italians may be less easy to sway. Other West European parties reportedly have been subjected to similar pressures.

Of the Eastern Europeans, Rumania is likely to attend the preparatory meeting, but Yugoslavia almost certainly will not. Elsewhere, Cuba will probably continue to boycott such gatherings, as will nearly all Asian parties.

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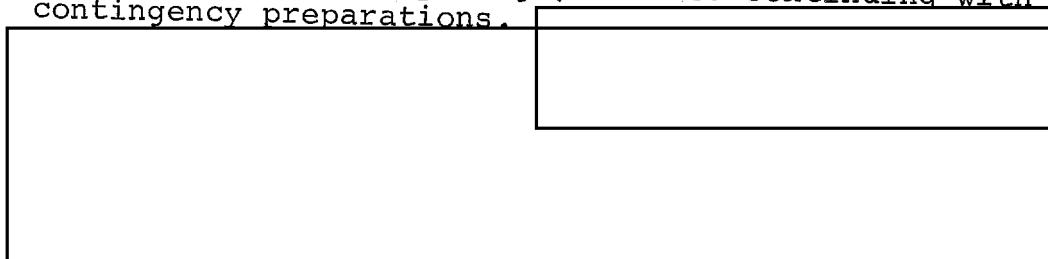
Israel - Arab States: The Israelis may be somewhat less restrained in retaliating for border incidents now that the Jarring mission is stalled.

The Israelis have shown unusual restraint vis-a-vis Jordan over the past two months. Nevertheless, the Israeli-Jordanian border continues to be the "hottest," with three to four exchanges a day. On 13 November, a minor small-arms exchange quickly developed into an extended fire fight involving mortars, tanks, and artillery. The Syrian border has been quiet for several weeks.

There have been no serious incidents along the Suez Canal since the Israeli commando strike of 31 October. The Israelis have pulled some units out of Egyptian artillery range, but are continuing with contingency preparations.

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Guyana: A strike by sugar workers loyal to pro-Communist opposition leader Cheddi Jagan could cause problems for Prime Minister Burnham.

The workers are demanding that a specific date be set for payment of retroactive wage increases recommended by a government-sponsored commission that has been investigating the industry. The government has declared that continued strike activity will only delay payment, which has been promised by 15 December, and has sent troops to the sugar fields to protect laborers who decide to resume work.

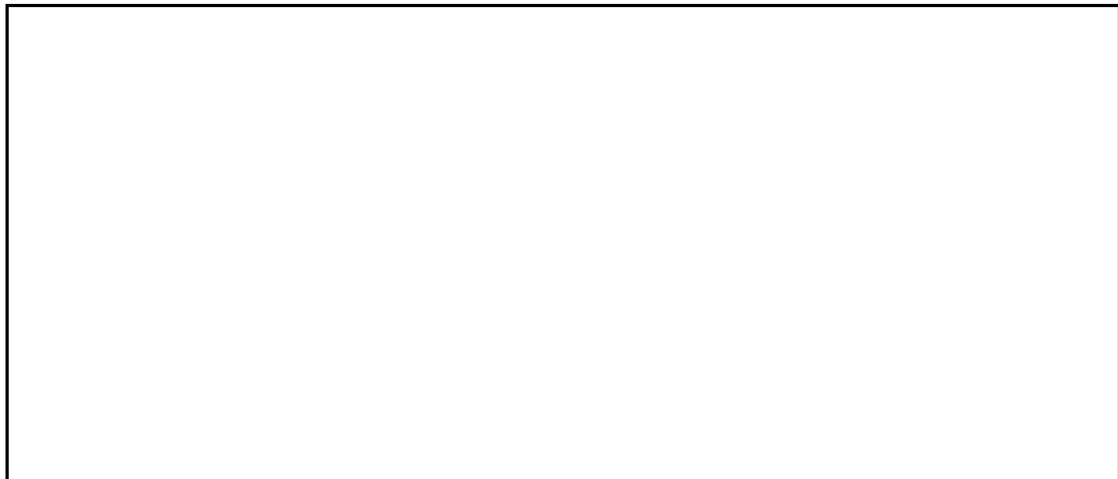
Jagan probably plans to use the strike to harass the Burnham administration. It is doubtful that he intends to touch off the kind of social unrest that would force a cancellation of the national election on 16 December. Nevertheless, sugar workers' strikes have led to violence in the past, and this one is potentially explosive. [redacted]

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Lebanon: Friction between the government and Arab terrorist organizations has sparked large demonstrations and clashes between sympathizers and opponents of the terrorists this week. A curfew has been imposed in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, following an incident yesterday in which one person was killed. The fedayeen sympathizers, supported by leftist and pro-Nasirist elements, are demanding that the Lebanese Government allow the terrorists to use Lebanese territory for operations against Israel. Should the demonstrations continue, they could affect the already shaky political situation in the country and lead to another governmental crisis.

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Italy: Student demonstrations in many cities over the past two weeks appear to be motivated by a desire for educational reform rather than by the wish to register a political protest. Labor restiveness during the same period has been marked by short strikes, particularly a nationwide, one-day strike for higher pensions on 14 November. The incumbent minority government's ability to cope with any serious and prolonged unrest is limited. Meanwhile, negotiations for a new coalition await various political developments including an impending Christian Democratic National Council meeting.

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15 Nov 68

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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East Germany - Yugoslavia: Relations are worsening between the two countries as Eastern European hard-liners press their propaganda attacks against Belgrade. The East Germans, in the authoritative Neues Deutschland of 13 November, hurled their bitterest words yet at Belgrade, charging that the Yugoslavs cannot be distinguished from "imperialists" and claiming that Belgrade has been interfering in the internal affairs of other socialist countries. The East Germans were responding to recent Yugoslav criticisms linking them with Hitler's policies. Various Eastern European officials at the Polish party congress have also criticized the Yugoslavs, equating their sins with those of Communist China and Albania.

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